Extending the OPAC: Integrating WorldCat, Maps, and More into Aleph

IGeLU September 10, 2008 Madrid, Spain





Introduction

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The State of Libraries and the Internet

- Libraries are no Longer the Only Place for Search and Books
 - > Google and Yahoo changed the way users think about search expertise
 - Large digitzation projects are offering text online
- But ... Libraries Offer Content and Services
 - **>** Books
 - Get Books for You ILL
 - Deliver Books to You Document Delivery
 - Get a readable copy
 - > Journals
 - Pay for access
 - Reserves
 - > Spaces to Meet, Read, Discuss
 - ➤ Information literacy
 - > And so much more ...





Where Libraries Can Focus Their Energy

- Bringing our Tools in Line with User Expectations created by the Internet
- Stop Making Them Go to a Specific Place Integrate Services Where the User Is
 - > Facebook
 - Course management systems
 - > Etc.
- Making More Logical Paths to Getting What Patrons Need
- Users Want to Be Able to Do It Themselves, but they also have a low tolerance for something that is difficult to do





The Opportunities

- Libraries have the opportunity to be technology leaders and deliver what our patrons want
 - > We have amazing structured data
 - > We have contact with our specific communities of users
 - ➤ But ... we need programmers and technology specialists, who are also library aware
- ExLibris Open Platform
 - > Commitment to open parts of systems
 - Platform for sharing code
- Local Customization will require
 - ➤ High Level Programmers to lead development
 - ➤ Web Developers with basic understanding of scripting to implement





Solutions Engineering









Technology Skills

- Technology for Development in Libraries
 - > XHTML
 - CSS (Cascading Style Sheets)
 - > Javascript
 - AJAX (Asyncronous Javascript and XML)
 - JSON (JavaScript Object Notation)
 - > XML (eXtensible Mark-up Language)
 - XSLT (XML Style Language Transformation)
 - Open Standards
 - OpenURL
 - ➤ Database Skills: MySQL, Posgres, Oracle
 - > SQL





Technology Skills

- ➤ WebServices
 - HTTP
 - SRU (Search and Retrieval URL)
 - XML
- Scripting Language
 - PERL
 - PHP
 - ASP, .net, C#
 - Ruby
 - Python
- Programming Language
 - Java
 - C++





Enhancing the OPAC

- Reusing Catalog Data to:
 - 1. enhance findability
 - 2. reduce dead ends
 - 3. reduce user keying and clicking
 - 4. reusing existing (robust) data
 - 5. better fulfill user expectations set by the Internet (bring the OPAC closer to next gen systems)





Process for Determining Enhancements

- Requests from:
 - **>** committees
 - > individuals
 - **>** administration





Process (cntd)

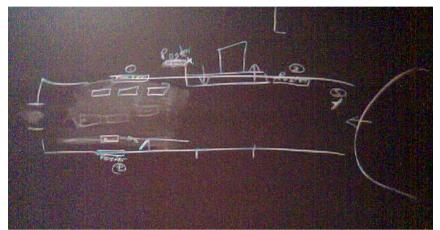
- Determine Feasibility
 - > What systems can accomplish the goal?
 - ➤ What are the dependencies?
- Cost/Benefit Balance
 - ➤ How much person time is involved vs how will this benefit
 - internal operations
 - users





Process (cntd)

Brainstorm









Experimentation and Change

- Increasing Experimentation with Services
 - developing hooks to commercial internet/subscription services
 - > let users vote with their fingers
- Services go into Beta for a period (6 months, semester, etc)
 - > those that get a lot of use are rolled into production
 - ➤ those that don't are discarded, moved to less prevalent part of menu, or get further evaluation
- Implementation/Change Management
 - > implementation of new services midstream
 - > changes in small to medium services
 - not always on semester schedule
 - users understand change nature of Internet





Customization

- Aleph (Templates)
 - > Allows for
 - Flexibility, can insert scripts
 - Powerful
 - can access the data
 - create multiple versions of the same file
 - Customized look and feel
 - Relatively low programming threshold for basic functionality (HTML, CSS, for more advanced features Javascript)
 - Drawbacks
 - You can only work with the data you get on the screen
 - Unstructured, may have to shoehorn
 - Undocumented
 - Can't move from file to file (even on the same screen)





Open-ness

- SFX (Parsers/Displayers), MetaLib (Search Programs)
 - > Allows for
 - Customization of system
 - Extensibility
 - > Drawbacks
 - May not carry from version to version
 - Requires medium level of programming knowledge (HTML, CSS, PERL, Javascript)





APIs

- Aleph, MetaLib (X-Server), SFX (API)
 - > Allows for
 - Deep customization
 - Data repurposing
 - Greater Flexibility and Extensibility
 - Structured data (computer can understand)
 - Drawbacks
 - Requires high level of programming knowledge (HTML, CSS, Scripting Language [PERL, PHP, .net, Ruby], Javascript, XML, Web Services, HTTP)
 - Multiple calls to different web services may introduce network latency
 - Most often pull, need more push APIs





Aleph as a Discovery System







ALEPH

OPAC

Added Services

- FindIt
- EndNote/Refworks Export
- Search WorldCat





Mash-ups



- Mash-up
 - bringing different elements from disparate information systems to create a new work



FindIt

- An SFX like menu that offers the user special services, maps, and added information about the item of interest
- Originally conceived to pre-fill document delivery forms (faculty only) in ILLiad
- Maps became focus to guarantee no dead end for most users
- Extended Services became add-ons that we thought might be useful





FindIt Technology

- Getting Data
 - ➤ WebServices (Aleph XServer, ISBN.com, Maps)
 - XML
 - SRU
 - HTTP
 - ➤ Javascript (Google Book)
 - JSON





FindIt Technology (cntd)

- Display
 - >XHTML
 - >CSS
 - > Javascript



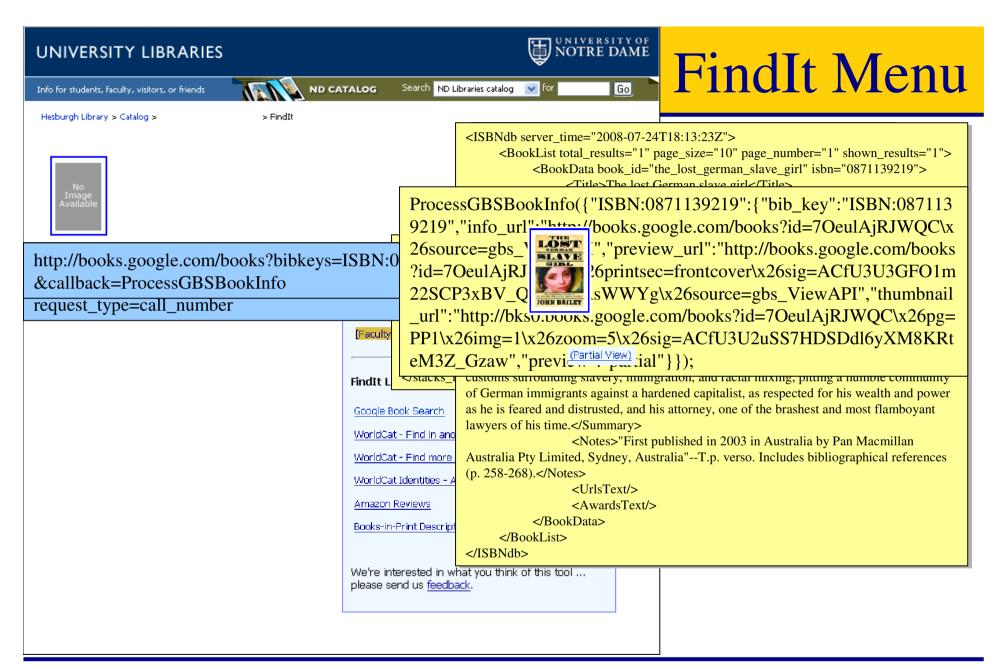


How Users Access FindIt













FindIt Future Enhancements

- Integrate with SFX
 - riangleright electronic electronic counterpart for print items
- Pull availability information from Aleph (probably via AJAX)
- Use xISBN with Google Book Viewability
 - > expand viewability to other editions





FindIt Aleph Integration

- Full Record
- Holdings Record
- Results List





FindIt on the Full Record

Full View of Record



Record 1 out of 3

Bailey, John, 1944 Dec. 15-

Title: The lost German slave girl: the extraordinary true story of Sally Miller and her fight for

◆ Previous Record

Results List

Ne:

freedom in old New Orleans / John Bailey.

1st American ed.

Published: New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, [2006]

xiii, 268 p.; 24 cm.

ND Has: Locations

Author:

Hesburgh Library General Collection

F 379 .N553 M553 2005

Abstract: Louisiana, 1843: a German immigrant thinks she recognizes a young slave girl as the

long-lost daughter of her German friend, but the girl has no memory of such a past, and her

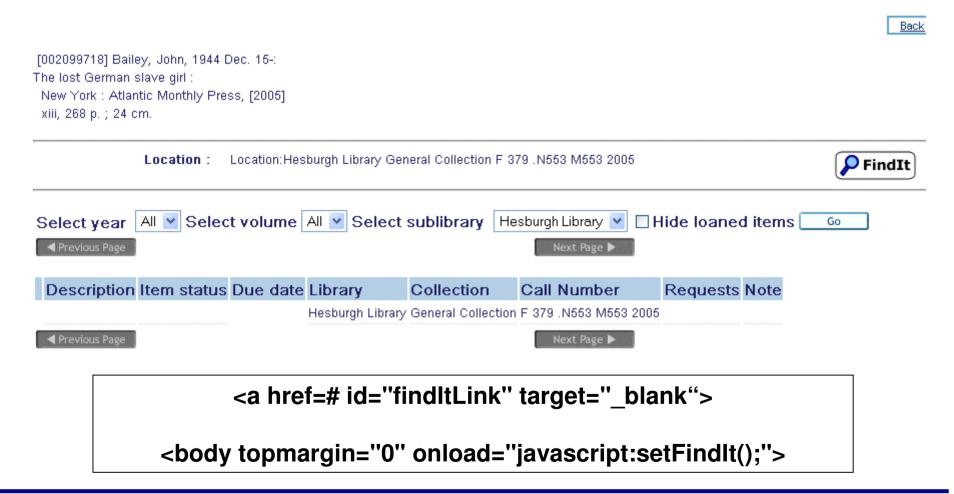
<a href=http://www.library.nd.edu/eresources/findit/findit.cgi?
doc_num=\$0600&aleph_session=&session" target="_blank">





FindIt on the Holdings Record

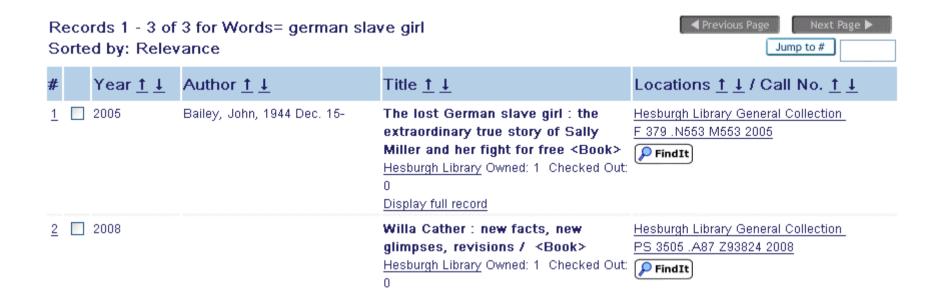
ND Full Catalog - Holdings







FindIt in the Results List



<a href="http://www.library.nd.edu/eresources/findit/findit.cgi?
doc_num=\$1000&aleph_session=&session" target="_blank">

Configure \$1000 in xxx01/tab/www_tab_short.eng





EndNote and Refworks

- 2 Bibliographic Utilities supported on campus.
- What was already in place?
 - > Z39.50 protocol allowed remote search of the catalog from within EndNote or RefWorks (limited search capability)
 - ➤ Aleph introduced an EndNote download format (RIS). User could download a text-file and import records manually.





Direct Export

- We want the user to be able to:
 - Search and select records in Aleph
 - > Select RefWorks or EndNote
 - Export records directly to the
 - the EndNote library on the user's workstation
 - the user's RefWorks account

without downloading an intermediate text file





EndNote and Refworks Technology

- Getting Data
 - > Javascript
 - ➤ Aleph Template Variables
 - ➤ Templates HTML and Forms
 - web pages and notices [export formatting] live different places (f-tree and form_lang)
- Pushing Data to Bibliographic Management Programs
 - > Refworks
 - PERL, but could use Javascript
 - Browser redirection (url has location of file on our server)
 - > EndNote
 - PERL
 - HTTP Header Manipulation MIME type
 - Data Dump Direct to Browser





EndNote/Refworks Aleph Integration

- User selects record(s) from
 - > Results list
 - > Full Record
 - > E-Shelf
- Added a *hidden* form to *short-mail*, *full-mail* & *myshelf-mail*
 - > Selected necessary options for export (unicode & RIS)
 - > Linked form to an "Export" tab
- Added a form to the *save-mail*, which is displayed when the file extension is *.end*
- Form sends server information and temp file name to a cgi script: export_citations





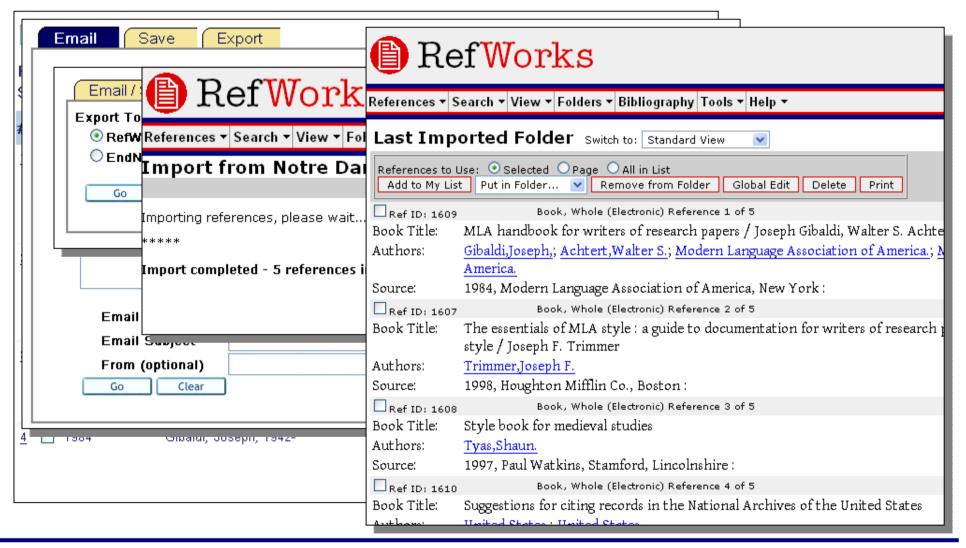
Refworks

- Build RefWorks URL with
 - ➤ Name and location of temp file
 - > filter selection (RIS)
 - > encoding (unicode)
- Browser is redirected to RefWorks URL
- RefWorks server
 - retrieves temp file from Aleph server
 - imports records into user's account
 - > opens user's account in browser





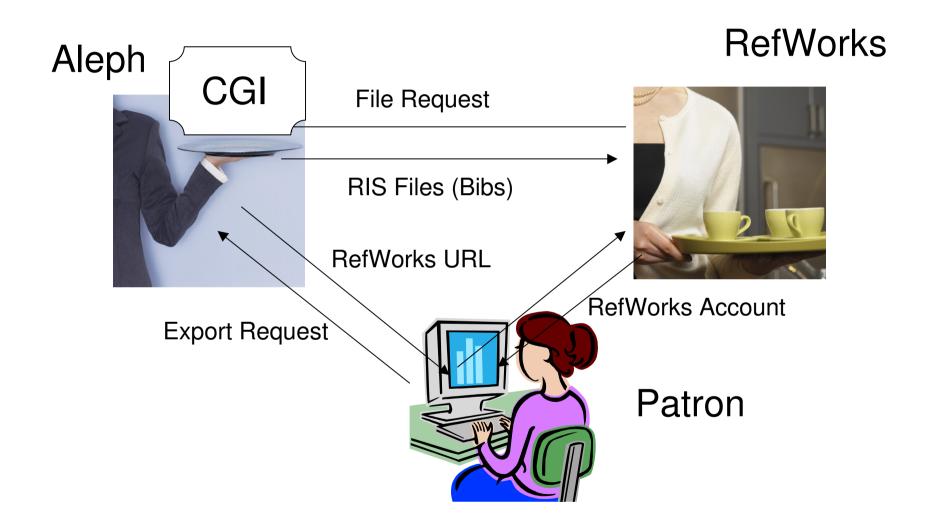
Refworks Export







How Refworks Export Works







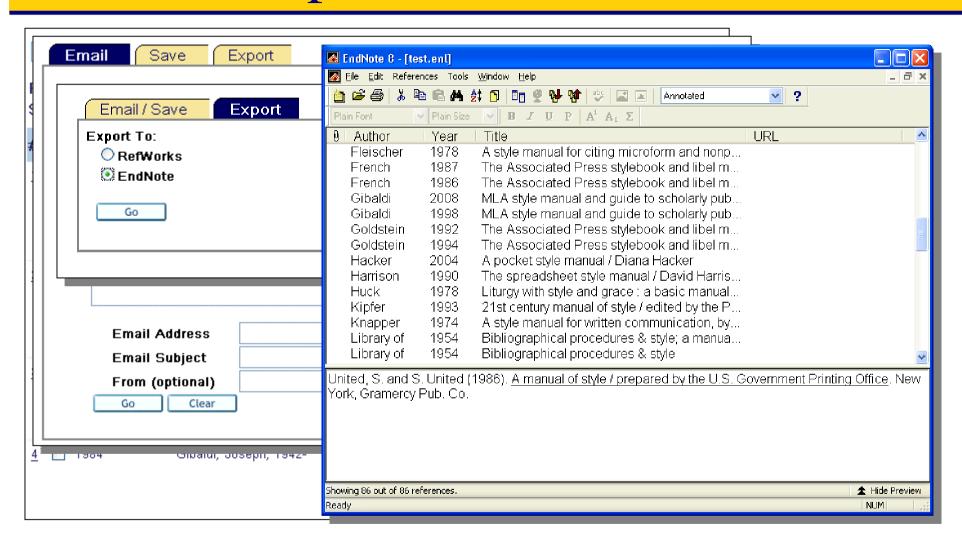
EndNote

- Opens temp file on Aleph server
- "Prints" file to user's browser, with MIME type
 - > application/x-endnote-refer
- Browser opens file with EndNote
- User selects an EndNote library on workstation
- EndNote imports records





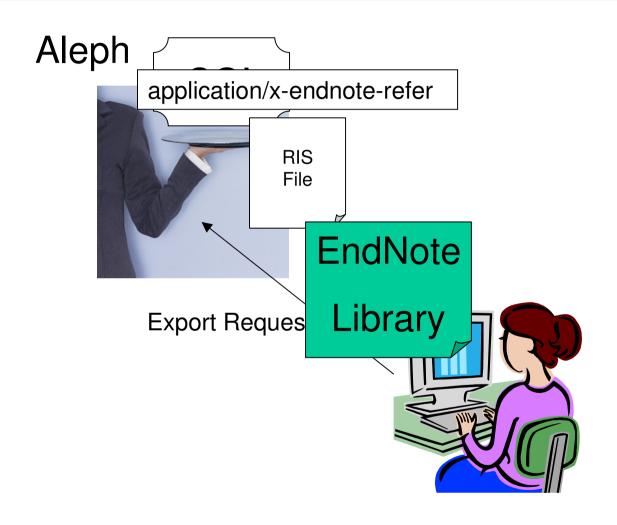
EndNote Export







How EndNote Direct Export Works









- Automatically redirect the user's search from Aleph to WorldCat (no re-keying)
- Two Main Goals:
 - Eliminate OPAC dead-ends when needed items are not in the collection
 - ➤ Increase use of WorldCat direct ILL request





What we Already Had in Place

- WorldCat (FirstSearch version) available on library homepage (but not from the OPAC)
- WorldCat direct request (via SFX)
 - ➤ User could request WorldCat items without keying them into an ILL form
 - ➤ Item request forwarded to OCLC without staff intervention in ILL office





Top 3 reasons to use WorldCat.org

(instead of FirstSearch)

- 3. WorldCat.org has a more user friendly interface (next gen), including faceted browsing
- 2. WorldCat.org is available to anyone who searches our OPAC, regardless of affiliation
- 1. FirstSearch does not support URL embedded searches





WorldCat Search Technology

- Getting Data
 - > Javascript
 - ➤ Aleph Template Variables
- Sending Data to WorldCat
 - > PERL
 - >HTTP Redirection





Aleph vs. WorldCat Search Syntax

Aleph

WRD = (key words)

WAU = (author)

WTI = (title)

WSU = (subject)

WLN = (language)

Browse

scan code=IND & scan start = text

Boolean

IND = (terms) OPR IND = (terms)

IND = (terms OPR terms)

WorldCat

q= key words

au: author

ti: title

su: subject

> limit (language)

No Browse

No Boolean Operators

Affiliation qt=affiliation&ai=University_ndlibraries





Aleph vs. WorldCat Examples

Aleph

WorldCat

```
WRD = (oracle)
```

$$WAU = (twain) AND WLN = (fre)$$

WRD = wom!n executives

scan_code = WTI and

scan_start = hunting of the sna

WAU = (heinlein OR asimov)

q=oracle

q=au:twain ti:sawyer

q=au:twain > fre

q=wom!n executives

q=ti:hunting of the sna?

Cannot render





WorldCat Search Aleph Integration

- Keyword Results
- Browse List
- Browse Results
- KW No Records

Advance Keyword

- short-2-head (script)
- scan-acc-head
- short-1-head
- find-b-list-head
- find-b-permute-head
- find-a

A separate script is needed for each file



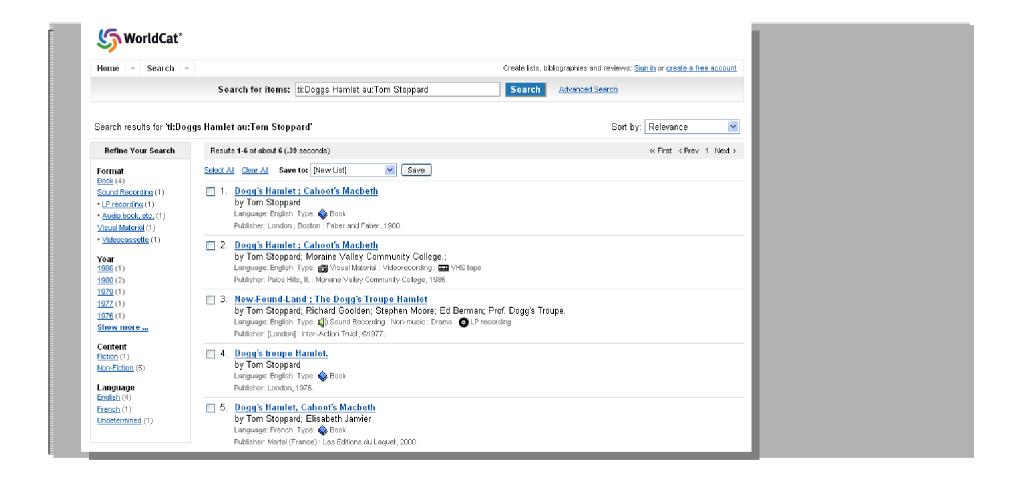


WorldCat Search Aleph Integration (cntd)

- Wrote JavaScript on Search Results page (actually, several search results pages) to capture the users Aleph query.
- Did some minimal processing of the users query on the client side to standardize the search.
- Sent the query off to a CGI script on the Aleph server

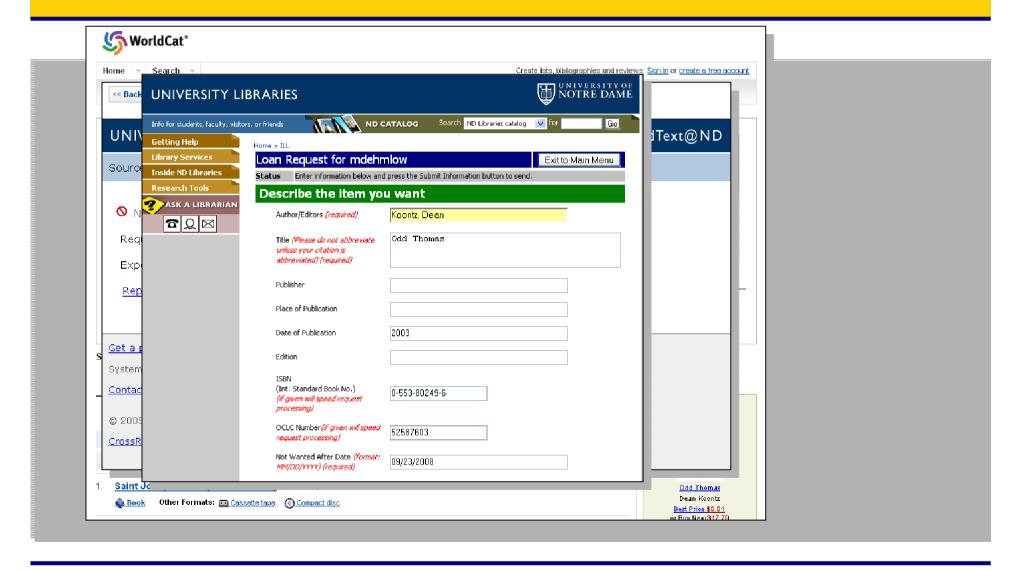






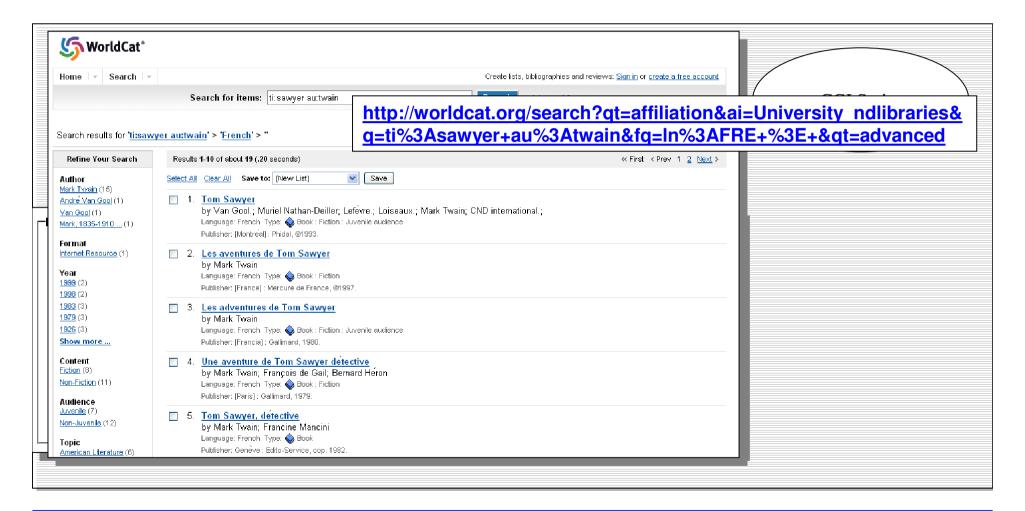
















FindIt Usage Trends

Total FindIt Menus Requested



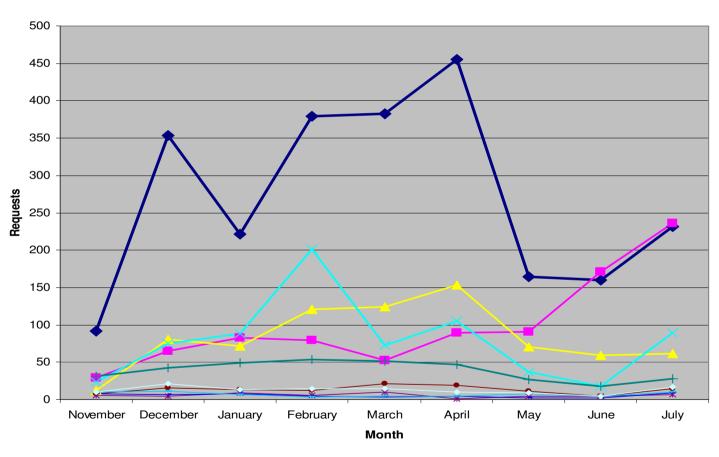




FindIt Usage Trends

Service Click Through Trends



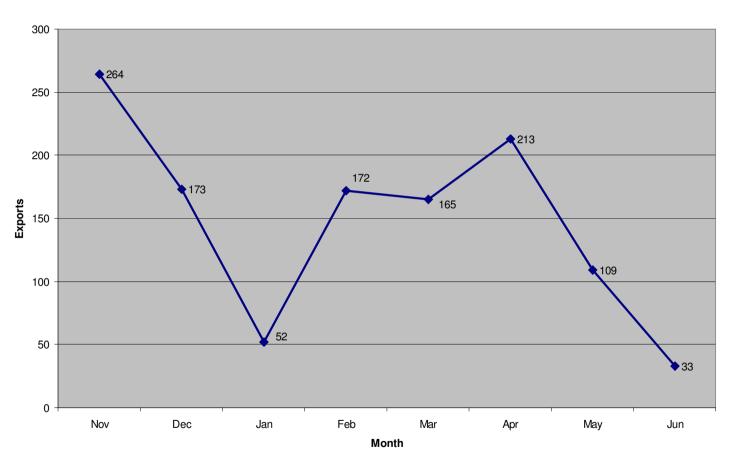






Export Usage

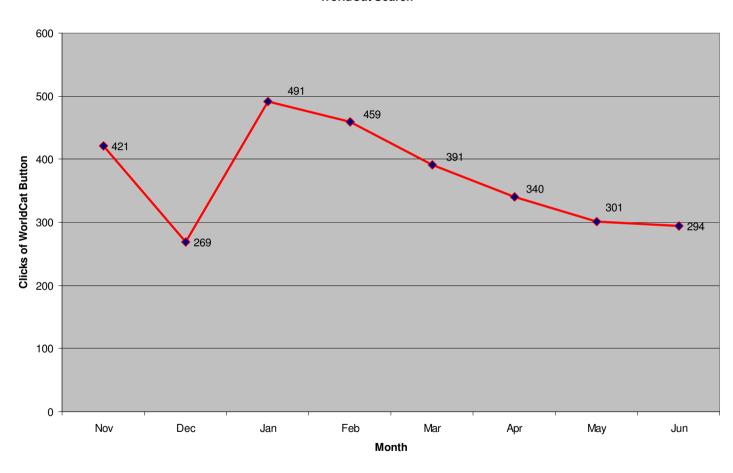
Direct Export







WorldCat Search Usage







Thank You

